



A Lesson on My Summer Activity by Emily Joswick

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Short Response, Writing, Reading, Critical Thinking, Discussion

Lesson Description: This activity builds reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students will be reading and using the short story "A Lesson on My Summer" to analyze vocabulary, answer short questions and formulate a short response essay.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

My Summer

by

Content: My grandmother lives in Phoenix. It has been ten years since she moved there. I was only 2 years old when she left Chicago. She had to move to a warmer climate because the winters in Chicago were too cold. She went to her doctor and he said that she could not stay in such a cold climate. She was sorry to leave because she had her family here and her friends. But soon she made more friends in Phoenix.

My mother goes to visit her in winter. I can't go because I have to be in school, but last summer I went for a long visit.

I traveled by plane to Phoenix. I had never been on an airplane before. It was very exciting. When we landed, the pilot said it was 110 degrees. I thought I had not heard him clearly. It had never been that hot in Chicago.

I got off the plane and saw my grandmother right away. We were both so happy I was there. She gave me a big long hug and then we went to get my suitcase. It took about 10 minutes to get it. I was worried that they had lost it, but then we saw it.

After that, we went outside. I was so surprised because it felt like being in a heater. It was hotter than I had ever felt. It was 110 degrees.

We went to the bus stop and the bus came right away. I got on and was so glad it came so quickly. It was cool because it was air-conditioned. It took about 30 minutes for us to get to her block. I didn't mind the long ride because it was interesting to look outside the window. People had brown grass. It was all dried out. And they didn't have trees. They had really big cactus plants.

When we got off the bus, we had to walk three more blocks to her apartment. I became so hot again. I asked my grandmother, How can you live in such a hot place?

Oh, you get used to it, she said. It turned out that she was right. It took a few weeks, but I got used to the heat. But we stayed inside when it was hottest. We went out in the morning when it was cooler, and at night it even felt a little chilly.

I went home at the end of summer. My mother came to meet me at the airport. She picked up my suitcase, and then we got on the bus. She asked me all about my trip. I told her, You're lucky you don't go in summer. But it is always great to be with grandma. My mother said, I miss her a lot. Next time I'll go with you.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word or phrase selected from the passage and use of each word or phrase correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Climate **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says "She had to move to a warmer climate because the winters in Chicago were too cold." What does the word "Climate" mean?

- A: city
- B: a type of plant
- C: weather
- D: country

Question: In which sentence is the word "climate" used correctly?

- A: The climate in the desert is very hot and dry.
- B: There are two climates in your shirt pocket.
- C: Purple and blue are two different types of climates.
- D: A climate is a type of flower.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: We went out in the morning when it was cooler, and at night it even felt a little chilly.

WordPhraseTier: 2

Question: In the story, the author says "We went out in the morning when it was cooler, and at night it even felt a little chilly." What does the word "chilly" mean in this sentence?

- A: A type of food
- B: cold
- C: warm
- D: windy

Question: In which sentence is the word "chilly" used correctly?

- A: It gets very chilly at the beach during summer time.
- B: I feel chilly with all these jackets on.
- C: You could overheat if you get too chilly.
- D: In the wintertime, it is very chilly and cold outside.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: I thought I had not heard him clearly. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the author says "I thought I had not heard him clearly". what does the word "clearly" mean?

- A: to be able to hear easily
- B: to whisper
- C: to scream
- D: to say in another language

Question: Which sentence uses the word "clearly" correctly?

- A: I could clearly hear my mom on the phone once I turned the volume up.
- B: There was so much noise in the building I could clearly hear the man speak.
- C: I could hear the noise so clearly I was not sure what it was.
- D: I could clearly hear everything even though I had ear plugs in.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: I was so surprised because it felt like being in a heater **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says: "I was so surprised because it felt like being in a heater". What does the phrase "I was so surprised because it felt like being in a heater" mean?

- A: That it was very cramped and not a lot of room.
- B: That it was very cold.
- C: That it was very hot.
- D: That it was very pretty.

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the phrase "it felt like being in a heater" correctly?

- A: There was so much snow and cold wind, it felt like being in a heater.
- B: The fireplace was burning so long that being in the house felt like being in a heater.
- C: There was so many people talking in the room it was hard to hear, it felt like being in a heater.
- D: The kids were all working so quietly, it felt like being in a heater.

Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why is the author so surprised at the temperature in Phoenix?

The author says in the story When we landed, the pilot said it was 110 degrees. I thought I had not heard him clearly. Why is the author surprised by what the pilot says?

2 - What are some reasons the mother visits the author's grandmother in the winter?

In the story, the author said My mother goes to visit her in winter. Why do you think the mother visits her in the winter time?

3 - Why was the author glad the bus came quickly?

In the story, the author said We went to the bus stop and the bus came right away. I got on and was so glad it came so quickly.. Why are some reasons the author would be happy the bus came quickly?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a two paragraph response on the following quote from the story: I told her, Youre lucky you dont go in summer.. What are some reasons the author thinks their mother is lucky to visit grandma in the winter? Give examples from the stroy.

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